

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF BOARD MEMBERS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

November 8, 2011

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

b. Contra Costa County/EBRPD Liaison Committee (09/12/11) (Radke)

Attendees:

Contra Costa County:

Supervisors: Karen Mitchoff, Federal Glover

Staff:

John Kopchik, Principal Planner, Community Development; Stephen Kowalewski, Development Director, Public Works; Steve Goetz, Deputy Director of Conservation & Transportation; John Cunningham, Sr. Transportation Planner, DCD; Susan Cohen, Special Districts Manager, Public Works; Nancy Baer, Program Manager, Health Services; Coire Reilly, Built Environmental Policy Specialist, Health Services

East Bay Regional
Park District

Board members: Ted Radke

Staff:

Erich Pfuehler, Legislative Affairs Manager; Carol Johnson, AGM Public Affairs; Nancy Wenninger, AGM Land Division; Sue Rogers, Confidential Secretary, General Manager's Office

Guests:

None

Contra Costa County Supervisor Karen Mitchoff called the meeting to order at 12:43 p.m.

I. Healthy Parks Healthy People – Kids Challenge

EBRPD AGM of Public Affairs Carol Johnson reported *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* was founded by Parks Victoria, Australia to promote public awareness about the clear linkage between individual and community health and accessible, well-managed parks. *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* is now an international initiative that has been embraced by 35 countries which

share a mission to get people to use parks and open space, and to better understand the health benefits by connecting to the natural environment through parks.

As the largest park district in the nation, the East Bay Regional Park District has piloted this project in the United States, with the assistance of Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service.

As part of developing HPHP relationships, the Park District is working with First Lady, Michelle Obama's office to partner with her "Let's Move! Outside" initiative.

The Park District hopes to become the first park district in the nation to implement this program.

One aspect of *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* is the Kids Challenge which has existed at the Park District as a "free" register-only program to get kids associated with outdoor activities.

To move the program forward and reach targeted audiences, the Park District is developing a program with the goal of reaching all the third grade classrooms throughout Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

Specific attention will be given to children in the reduced or free lunch programs.

Ms. Johnson added the Park District is working with other organizations, such as Ecoliteracy, to develop curriculum standards.

Students will receive a Kids Challenge guidebook from their teachers, who will also receive a teacher's guide.

The guidebook is based on the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights which focus on getting kids active and outdoors.

Kids Challenge will fit well with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson's *Healthy Kids Initiative*.

Kids Challenge will also provide the most economically challenged students with free transportation, provided by the Regional Park Foundation, for a field trip to a park of their choosing. The Park District is looking for direction from Contra Costa County Public Health Services to: Develop objectives and health measurements standards, suggest health messages, and provide guidance about which schools would be good candidates for a handful of pilot programs. The Park District is hoping to roll out this program in 2012.

Contra Costa County Public Health Program Manager, Nancy Baer offered there are existing activities the Health Department currently engages in that might work well with the Kids Challenge program. Contra Costa County Supervisor Karen Mitchoff asked Ms. Baer to make recommendations, based on the data the Health Department is gathering, about good locations to pilot the Kids Challenge program.

This would then be provided to the each of the five supervisors for selection of a school they wish to include.

2. Update on East Contra Costa Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

Contra Costa County Principal Planner John Kopchik mentioned the County is in its third year of partnering with the EBRPD to help implement the Contra Costa County HCP which was approved in 2007.

The HCP helps coordinate mitigation for developers to provide streamlined local permitting; ensure mitigation money is matched with grants to buy land in a cohesive, organized fashion; and to manage for the benefit of endangered species.

The goal of the HCP is to secure 30,000 acres over 30 years, or 1,000 acres per year on a steady pace.

In total 8,500 acres have been purchased, most of which has been purchased in the last two years.

Another goal of the HCP is to leverage money from other sources.

The grand total to purchase the 8,500 acres was \$38 million of which 45% is from federal sources, 15% is from state sources, 11% is from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the remaining 29% from the East Bay Regional Park District's Measure WW. This has been an historic moment for land conservation as the plan came together: Grant sources were discovered, the voters passed Measure WW in 2008, and the current economic downturn has allowed the Park District to purchase land at a more rapid pace than would have otherwise been possible.

EBRPD AGM of Land Nancy Wenninger thanked Mr. Kopchik for his efforts in securing federal and state grant funds. She added this was only possible because of the HCP. A significant dent has been made in EBRPD's high priority acquisitions because of the partnership with the HCP.

3. Plan Bay Area – SB 375 Implementation

EBRPD Legislative Affairs Manager Erich Pfuehler provided background on SB375.

As part of the Sustainable Community Strategy there is a conservation component to SB375, but so far the focus is not on land conservation, but on transportation and housing. The idea of SB375 is to leverage transportation dollars to create a more sustainable community.

In order for the strategy to be truly sustainable, there has to be a conservation component.

The Park District has been encouraging MTC and ABAG representatives to include a conservation component. For a minimal amount of money, from the over \$200 billion in

transportation dollars, there should be a carve-out for protecting open space, conservation and wildlife corridors.

The Park District has prepared the Green Transportation and Environmental Maintenance Project to aid in the Sustainable Communities Strategy/Plan Bay Area process. The Park District has identified vital resource areas in Alameda and Contra Costa counties for protection. Some things the Park District would utilize funding for are: improving the Green Transportation network to complete critical gaps in regional trails connecting people to transit; habitat restoration enhancement; Healthy Parks, Healthy People Initiative; and environmental maintenance.

The Park District is also talking to other counties and Mid-Peninsula Open Space District to discuss how, as open space districts throughout the Bay Area, we can help craft a conservation chapter for the SB375 strategy.

Staff at ABAG is interested in working with the Park District in developing the language for the conservation piece.

4. Trails Update – TIGER II

EBRPD AGM Land Division Nancy Wenninger reported a year ago the Park District received a \$10 million federal TIGER II grant. The Park District is currently in the process of securing that funding.

To have the money obligated, the design and engineering, environmental reports and public hearings must first be completed.

Three Bay Trail segments in Contra Costa are included; the Carquinez Scenic Drive, a Hercules segment, and the Pinole Shores Bridge over the railroad track to Lone Tree.

5. Concord Naval Weapons Station

EBRPD AGM Land Division Nancy Wenninger explained the Park District continues to work with the City of Concord and the Department of the Navy. The Park District has submitted a request for beneficial conveyance for 2,500 acres to make a new regional park. EBRPD Board member Ted Radke added the Park District is also working with the National Park Service (NPS) to include an NPS headquarters facility as part of the proposal included in the beneficial conveyance. Ms. Wenninger explained the Navy would convey the property to the National Park Service and the NPS would convey the property to the Park District. The NPS would be a partner in this park and have a visitor's center at the site as well.

6. Contra Costa County Transportation for Livable Communities (CCTA)

Contra Costa County Transportation Planner John Cunningham presented an update on two grant proposals.

The Olympic Corridor Project Study strives to identify improvements along the Olympic corridor.

There are currently some bottle necks and difficult areas to negotiate. The corridor would include three different alignments: One on Boulevard Way, one on Olympic and one along Newell Avenue.

The existing planning document is well supported.

The second proposal is the implementation of the Bailey Road CCTA which implements select components of the 2010 plan, but the exact components for the application are currently under discussion. Contra Costa County Deputy Director Community Development Steven Goetz added the outcome is to have an alignment of the Delta de Anza Trail along the west side of Bailey Road and bypass the tunnel currently under the westbound off ramp.

These grant funds will allow the County to continue to work with CalTrans to finalize the plan to reconfigure the off ramp.

7. Public Comments

Mr. Steven Goetz reported an Environmental Impact Report will be issued for the North Richmond Specific Plan which includes Wildcat Regional Trail Facility and addresses the crossing issue at the Richmond Parkway to the Bay Trail.

This specific plan proposes a revision to the County's existing plan which will provide for a full access intersection and trail crossing.

The County and Park District have been searching for a solution to this issue. This option would be less expensive than a separated crossing which was previously proposed.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Board of Directors is working toward policy updates for the Master Plan.

Meetings will be held in cities in both Contra Costa and Alameda counties to solicit opinions of the constituency on Master Plan policy changes. The counties will be notified as dates are set.

Next meeting date: Tentatively set for Monday, March 26th 2012.

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Mitchoff at 1:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan J. Rogers